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OCTOBER 2012

CAT FANCY®

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THE AUTHORITY ON ALL THINGS CAT

**Spice Up
Your Cat's
Play Time!**

Black Magic

The Sleek **BOMBAY**
+ More **BLACK CATS**

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**SIMPLE
Grooming
Guide**

- TOOLS
- PRODUCTS
- TIPS



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Breed Profile

Black

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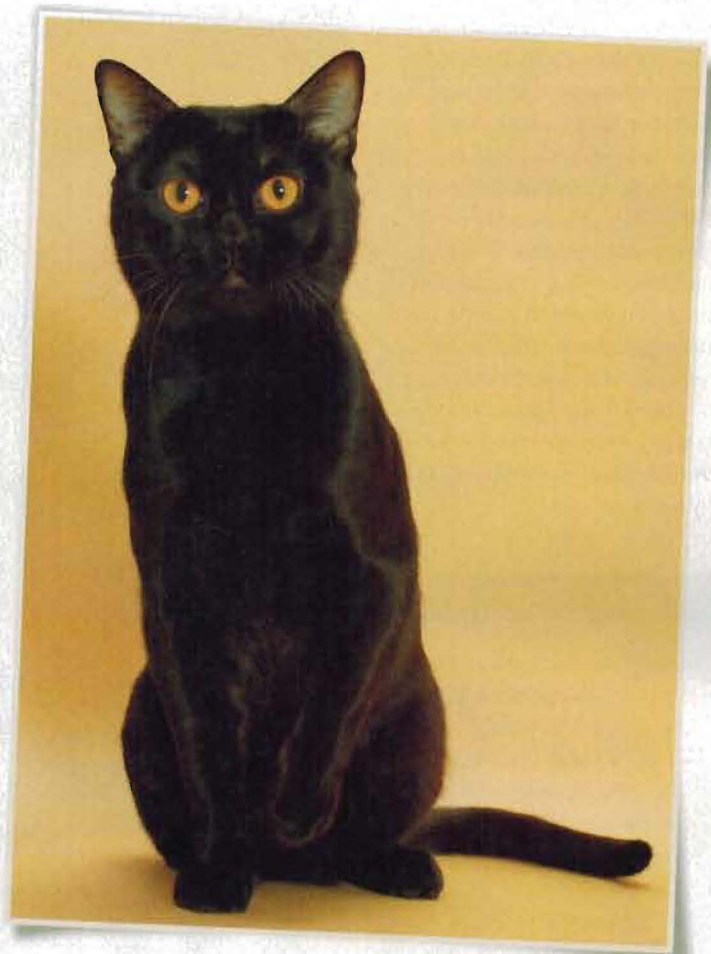
CONNECT WITH BOMBAY OWNERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD OR CREATE A PROFILE OF YOUR OWN AT CATCHANNEL.COM/BOMBAY

Diamonds

CK BOMBAY CONSIDER THE BREED A RARE TREASURE.

Benson walks with a bit of a swagger — and for good reason. The male Bombay possesses the self-confidence and friendliness for which the breed is known and, like other Bombays, he seems to know the special place he maintains in his family.

Indeed, fans of the breed consider the cats precious treasures. “They are like no other cat in the world!” says Kathy Shelton-Riek, a former breeder from North Carolina. “I feel so much love and comfort from them.”



Bombays love to play and are fond of inventing new ways to entertain themselves — and the people who live with them.

The Bombay is sleek and muscular, resembling a miniature panther.

*They are like no other cat in the world!
I feel so much love and comfort from them.*

— Kathy Shelton-Riek

PHOTO BY PRESTON SMITH

A Loving Companion

The Bombay has plenty of love, comfort and loyalty to share with its owners, according to Barb LaBella, a breeder from Florida. She describes her cats as “Velcro kitties,” noting that they follow her from room to room just to be near her. “They are loyal to the nth degree to their humans,” she explains. “The love you receive from them is beyond description.”

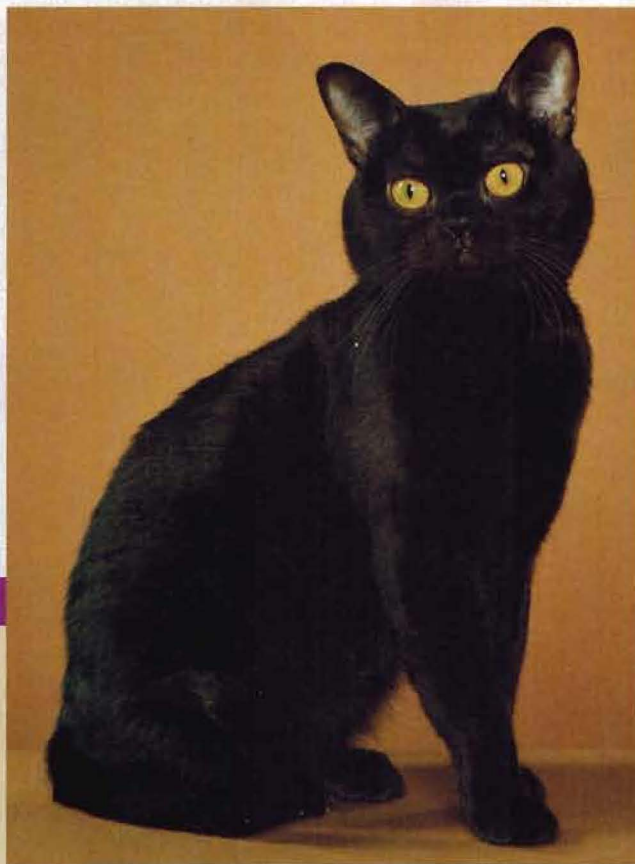
While willing to shower its person with love and affection, the Bombay expects the same in return. Sharon Hopkins, a breeder from Maryland, points to the cat’s confidence as a factor in its need for attention. “They are sure of themselves,” she explains. “Talking to someone else is just an invitation for them to come to you.”

Petting might satisfy the Bombay’s initial bid for attention, but the cat’s intellect and curiosity also demand regular playtime. LaBella’s cats enjoy chasing her computer cursor across the screen, while Shelton-Riek tells stories about her cats’ ability to invent games. “We have had Bombays learn to fetch and retrieve toys, which led to them taking their toys to be fed and watered,” she says. “I awakened one night to the lights above my bed being turned on and off to find the light tassel being pulled by one of my cats.”

BREED INFO

■ **Appearance:** Burnished copper eyes against a glossy black coat — all Bombays share the same eye and coat color. The stunning combination graces a medium-sized body made up of gently rounded curves, though the Bombay’s body typically is a bit longer than that of its Burmese cousin, says Sharon Hopkins, a breeder from Maryland. A medium-length tail, rounded facial features and round paw pads complete the overall look of the breed.

■ **Standard:** The Cat Fanciers’ Association’s standard for the Bombay calls for a cat with fur that is “black to the roots.” The



All Bombays share the characteristic copper eyes and glossy black coat.

cat’s paw pads and nose leather should be black as well.

The distinctive black coat should be short and glossy, with a “satin-like” texture. The standard goes on to describe the fur that has a “shimmering, patent leather sheen.”

■ **Care and Grooming:**

Though a shorthaired cat, the Bombay can shed a bit, “especially when the weather

Captivating Cat

When she started her quest for a breed that resembled a miniature black panther, Bombay breed founder Nikki Horner may not have known how many wonderful personality characteristics would accompany the Bombay’s glossy black coat and copper eyes. Her efforts, however, resulted in a cat both beautiful and compelling.

The Bombay likely inherited some of its charm from its parent breeds. “The breed is a combination of a black American Shorthair and a traditional sable Burmese,” Hopkins explains. “At this time, there is still a shortage of these beautiful cats.”

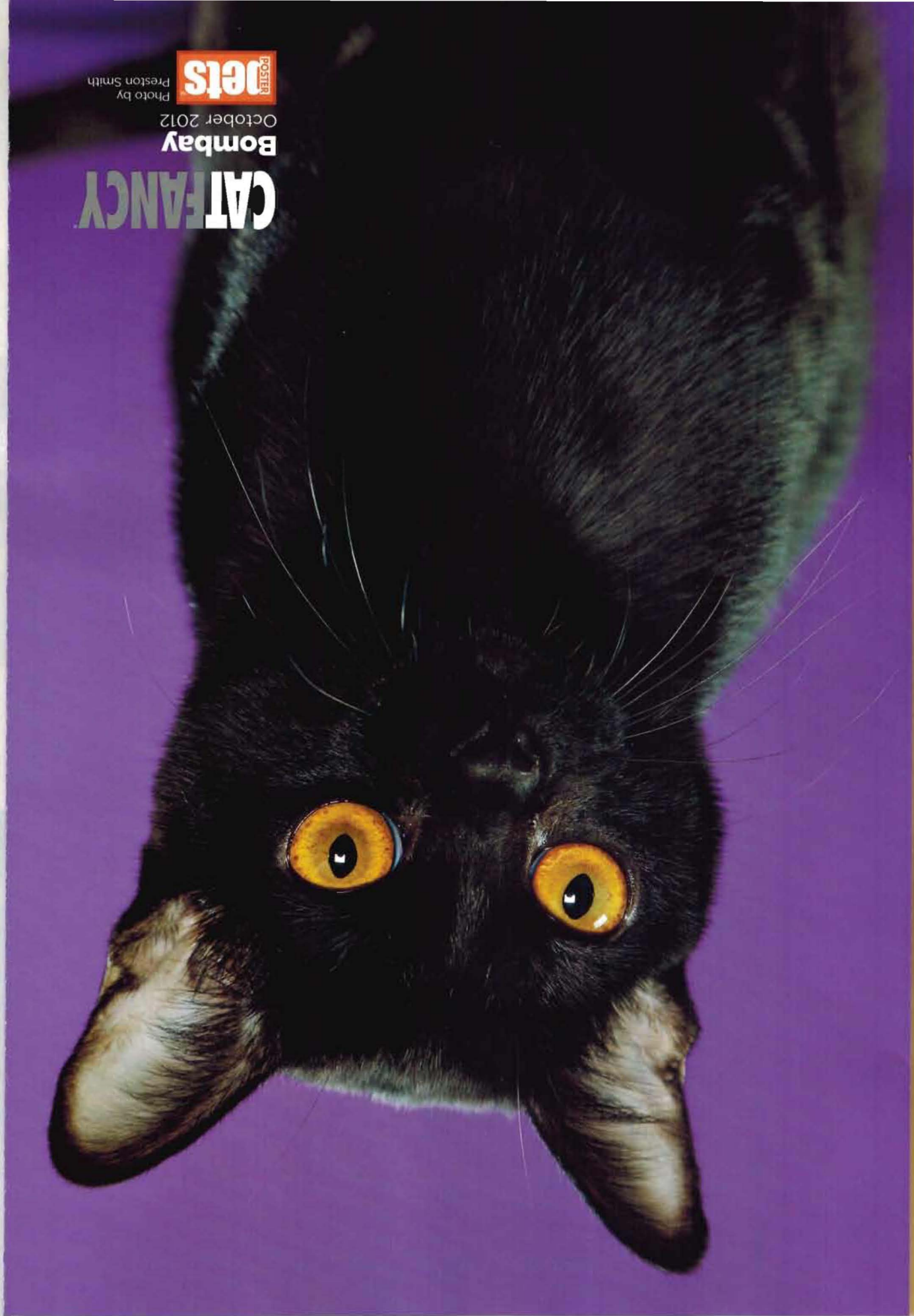
Because of the relative scarcity of the breed, both the Cat Fanciers’ Association and The International Cat Association allow outcrossing to the parent breeds. “As the number of Bombay breeders grows, I imagine we will see the time that no outcrosses will be allowed,” Hopkins adds.

As more cat lovers learn about the beauty and charm of the Bombay, those numbers should grow. As LaBella says, “The Bombay is the most amazing breed.” 🐾

Stacy N. Hackett writes frequently about cats and other pets. She has a special affection for the Cornish Rex breed and any cat with red tabby markings.

■ **Health:** The Bombay enjoys general good health, though its parent breeds might have passed a slight predisposition to a few conditions. From its Burmese cousin, the Bombay might have inherited a chance of developing the somewhat rare condition “cherry eye.” This occurs when the gland located at the base of the third eyelid breaks loose from its attachment to the lid and becomes visible.

In rare instances, Bombay kittens might be born with cleft palate, a birth defect of the cat’s nasal and oral cavities where the palate bones fail to develop and fuse. This condition can be corrected with plastic surgery.



CATFANCY

Bombay
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Photo by
Preston Smith

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